Interference by DOD over Subjects

1189. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has written to the Prime Minister over the "uncalled for' interference by the Department of Disinvestment over subjects and issues under the purview of his Ministry, as published in sections of the Press; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Prime Minister thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

Majority of urban population living in Jhuggies

†1190. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the cities in India more than fifty per cent of the population are compelled to dwell in the jhuggi-jhonpries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these are bereft of all the basic amenities; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to resolve the problems of the jhuggi dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Though the exact percentage of population living in jhuggi-jhonpries in the country is not available, the State-wise, number of estimated slums and slum households as per the National Sample Survey Organisation, 49th Round Report are given in Annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 46]

(b) No, Sir. As per 49th Round (Jan.—June 1993) Survey, Slums in India NSSO, reported that around 1/3rd of urban slums had pucca and kutcha structures, 65% of the urban slums reported a 'tap' as a source of drinking water, while more than a quarter got drinking water through tube well/hand pumps. About 60% of the urban slums remain water logged during monsoon, 54% had no latrine facility. Only about 18% had latrines with a septic tank and flush system and 7% were having service latrine facilities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) In 1972 the Central Scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slum (EIUS) was introduced to improve the living environment of slum dwellers by providing minimum basic facilities. The scope of the EIUS scheme was enlarged in 1974 and the scheme was made as an integral part of the Minimum Needs Programme and was transferred to the State sector in April, 1974.

In August, 1996 a scheme viz., National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was introduced to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States/UTs for the development of urban slums. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity & child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision of shelter upgradation. Under this scheme, during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 250.01, Rs. 290.99 and Rs. 353.57 crores respectively were released by the Central Government to all States/UTs. For the year 1999-2000, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 385.08 crores out of which upto February, 2000 Ministry of Finance has released an amount of Rs. 332.29 crores to States.

Monitoring of various housing boards

1191. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several Housing Boards, Development Authorities and Improvement Trusts have been set up in different States to deal with and provide housing plots for residential purposes and they are adopting different sets of rules and procedures; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken, at Central level to monitor activities, to aid and advise on modern requirements, protection measures such as from cyclone/flood?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The role of the Government of India as envisaged in National Housing and Habitat Policy is that of an enabler/facilitator.